GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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\$29 MILLION IN STIMULUS GRANTS AWARDED TO GEORGIA TRANSIT PROJECTS

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ATLANTA – The Georgia Department of Transportation received \$29 million for transit improvement projects as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

The grants will fund facility construction and enable local transit agencies to purchase computers, software and vehicles in more than 80 localities throughout the state. A total of \$20.7 million was awarded to rural areas with populations under 50,000 and \$9.09 million was awarded to small urban areas with populations under 250,000.

"This is a welcome infusion of money at a time when communities are struggling to find resources for services," said Georgia DOT Commissioner Vance C. Smith, Jr.

The Department and Federal Transit Administration are coordinating for a final call of projects scheduled in September to distribute the remaining \$9 million for rural and small urban areas.

Georgia DOT is responsible for 70 percent of Georgia's \$932 million in highway system ARRA funds. The remaining 30 percent is divided among the state's 15 Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and designated rural areas. The MPOs, in conjunction with the Department, are funding projects from these respective allocations. The state also received \$144 million in stimulus funds for public transit to be distributed directly to large urban areas and Georgia DOT has awarded related local grants totaling approximately \$39 million. Georgia is eligible for additional highway, rail and aviation grants from funds totaling \$12.1 billion.

All selected ARRA stimulus projects are fully funded by the federal government; no state or local matching funds are required.

Georgia DOT maintains a Web page (<u>www.dot.ga.gov/gastimulus</u>) devoted to stimulus activities to provide specific program information and promote transparency of the process. Details about specific projects are located in the transit section.

The ARRA is a national effort to create jobs and transform America's economy to compete in the 21st century. Nationwide, some \$48 billion in stimulus investments are being made in transportation infrastructure, including highways, public transit, high speed rail and aviation.

The Georgia Department of Transportation is committed to providing a safe, seamless and sustainable transportation system that supports Georgia's economy and is sensitive to both its citizens and its environment. For general information on the Georgia DOT, please visit our Web site (www.dot.ga.gov).